



NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region

**Pike & San Isabel National Forests,
Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands
Forest Supervisors Office
2840 Kachina Dr.
Pueblo, CO 81008**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/>

USDI Bureau of Land Management Royal Gorge Field Office

**3170 E. Main St.
Canon City, CO 81212**

<http://www.co.blm.gov/ccdo/canon.htm>

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FIRE RESTRICTIONS CONTINUE FOR FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS IN SOUTHEAST COLORADO

PUEBLO, Colo., May 24, 2006... Even though the local area has recently received some moisture, fire danger conditions remain severe with live fuel moistures below normal, approaching drought conditions such as we saw in 2002. For example, a dead log that is 6 inches in diameter is as dry as kiln-dried lumber. With the upcoming holiday weekend, fire managers are encouraging forest visitors to be aware of dry conditions and current restrictions.

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions remain in place on public lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche National Grassland (PSICC) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) east of the Continental Divide in Colorado excluding the San Luis Valley and Jackson County. Restrictions for both agencies exclude Lake County and will remain in effect until rescinded.

STAGE I FIRE RESTRICTIONS

The following acts are prohibited on USFS and BLM public lands managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office and PSIC until further notice:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, any type of charcoal fueled broiler or open fire of any type in undeveloped areas.
2. On BLM public lands possessing, discharging or using any type of fireworks or other pyrotechnic device to include sparklers. The use of fireworks is always prohibited on National Forests and Grasslands.
3. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, in a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least 3 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

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Actions Permitted:

1. Fires in constructed, permanent fire pits or fire grates within developed recreation sites are permitted.
2. Mechanical stoves or other appliances fueled by bottled or liquid gas and equipped with a valve which allows the operator to turn the flame on and off are permitted.

Even with the restrictions, visitors should be aware of weather conditions and be careful with the use of fire outdoors. Visitors should check with their local BLM or USFS office or go to the web to learn about specific restrictions.

BLM: www.co.blm.gov/ccdo/canon

USFS/Special Orders: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/publications/orders/index.shtml>

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NOTE: The media-only Fire Information Phone Line is active at 719-553-1640 for a recorded message of the most up-to-date wildfire information for the BLM and U.S. Forest Service in Southern Colorado.